WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Representation to Bihar in Tea Board

†864. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extensive farming of tea has been undertaken in Kishanganj district of Bihar during the past several years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bihar has not been given representation in the Tea Board by nominating any tea entrepreneur from that State as a member; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Tea cultivation in Kishanganj, Bihar was started during the last decade and, as on date, as per the report of the Bihar Tea Planter's Association, about 4000 hectares is under cultivation in Kishanganj district.

(b) and (c) A nominee from the State of Bihar cannot be a member of the Tea Board as per the Tea Act because the State is a non-traditional tea area. However, the Tea Board has been advised to invite a nominee of the State Government of Bihar to meetings of the Board, as a special invitee, if subjects relevant to Bihar are discussed.

Effect of import of edible oils

†865. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing edible oils from other countries;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof and the names of those countries, togetherwith the rates at which oil is being imported;

(c) whether it would adversely affect the edible oil business of the country; and

(d) its impact on the producers of mustard and soyabean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Details of import of edible oils [Vegetable oils fixed (Edible)] from major countries during the last three years is given in the table below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.